THE HON'BLE SRI JUSTICE L.NARASIMHA REDDY

WRIT PETITION No. 11977 OF 2008

O R D E R:

The respondent University issued an Advertisement on 10.1.2008, inviting applications for appointment to various posts, including Assistant Professor in Political Science, Public Administration, and Assistant Director (Student Service). The petitioner submitted his application for the three posts referred to above. Interviews for the said posts have already commenced.

A candidate, who intends to be selected for the posts referred to above, must possess Post Graduation degree and must have cleared National Eligibility Test (NET). If one holds the Ph.D degree in the subject concerned, he is exempted from NET. The petitioner did not clear NET. He undertook research in Sri Venkateshwara University, but was not awarded Ph.D, as yet. Sri Venkateshwara University is said to have issued a notification dated 9.6.2008, to the effect that the petitioner is found eligible to be awarded Ph.D. degree. On this basis, the petitioner seeks a direction to the respondent, to consider his case for selection, along with other eligible candidates.

Sri V. Jagapathi, learned counsel for the petitioner, submits that once the University has declared the petitioner eligible to be awarded the Ph.D. degree, he fulfils the prescribed qualifications, and thereby eligible to be considered in the selection process, along with other candidates. Learned counsel submits that though the interview call letter was not issued to the petitioner, on account of his not possessing Ph.D. degree, at the relevant point of time, in view of the issuance of notification by Sri Venkateshwara University, the case of the petitioner must be considered.

Sri M. Ratna Reddy, learned Standing Counsel for the respondent, on the other hand, submits that the petitioner must have possessed Ph.D. degree, as on the date of submission of application, and in that view of the matter, he was not issued the interview call letter. He contends that even the notification dated 9.6.2008 cannot be treated, either as provisional or degree certificate of Ph.D, and thereby, the petitioner cannot be interviewed on the undergoing selection.

The notification issued by the respondent University, as well as the information supplied to the candidates, is clear as to the qualifications that are required to be held by the candidates. The petitioner does not hold NET qualification. As regards the alternative qualification of Ph.D., it is no doubt true that he has submitted his dissertation, in the recent past, but the fact remains that he was not awarded the Ph.D. degree. Unless it is awarded by the competent authority, the petitioner cannot claim that he possesses the said degree. Even in the call letters that are issued to the candidates, who are otherwise found eligible, it is clearly mentioned that they must submit the original of the provisional/degree of Ph.D. certificate. Admittedly, the petitioner does not hold either of them. The notification relied upon by the petitioner is more informative, than a measure of conferment of Ph.D. This court is not inclined to grant any relief to the petitioner.

The writ petition is, accordingly, dismissed. There shall be no order as to costs.

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11th June 2008
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